



Campaspe Shire Council
Domestic Animal Management Plan
2021 – 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

1.1 Purpose of Domestic Animal Management Plan

Council plays an important leadership role in supporting and promoting responsible pet ownership and community safety, combined with active and healthy lifestyles.

After consultation with animal rescue groups, foster care networks, animal welfare organisations, volunteers, staff and interested community members, the Campaspe Shire Council is pleased to present its fourth Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021- 25 (DAMP). This plan builds on the work of previous plans and provides new initiatives and programs to be delivered over the next four years. This plan aims to develop and implement a range of initiatives that will:

- Improve animal management.
- Educate the community about responsible pet ownership.
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- Maximise the benefits of animal ownership.
- Minimise the number of animals that are brought into the Campaspe Animal Shelter.
- Minimise the number of animals that are euthanised.
- Create an environment where people and animals can coexist safely.
- Protect the community and environment from feral and nuisance animals.
- Promote a program for registration and identification of domestic animals.
- Identify and control restricted breed, dangerous and menacing dogs.
- Support Domestic Animal Businesses obtain registration and meet their legislative requirements.

Domestic animals are a significant part of many people's lives, and Council acknowledges the health and well-being outcomes that can be attributed directly to animal ownership. Council understands the requirement to balance the aspirations of animal owners, the health needs of animals, and the expectations of the broader Campaspe community to produce a management framework that achieves positive outcomes for all stakeholders.

Statutory requirements

This DAMP has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Victorian Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Under Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act, each Council must prepare a domestic animal management plan, every four years as follows:

68A. Councils to prepare domestic animal management plans.

- (1) Subject to subsection (1A), each Council must, in consultation with the Secretary, prepare a domestic animal management plan on 4 December 2021 and at the end of each period of 4 years after that day.
 - (a) A Council may apply to the Secretary for an extension of time within which to prepare a domestic animal management plan.
 - (b) The Secretary may grant an extension of time under subsection (1A) if the Secretary believes that special circumstances exist that warrant the granting of an extension.

- (2) A domestic animal management plan prepared by a Council must—
 - (a) set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the Council in its municipal district are adequate to give effect to the requirements of this Act and the regulations; and
 - (b) outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council's municipal district; and
 - (c) outline programs, services, and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district—
 - (i) to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats;
 - (ii) to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation;
 - (iii) to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals;
 - (iv) to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats;
 - (v) to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats;
 - (vi) to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and
 - (vii) to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations;
 - (d) provide for the review of existing orders made under this Act and local laws that relate to the Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable;
 - (e) provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary;
 - (f) provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.
- (3) Every Council must—
 - (a) review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan; and
 - (b) provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and
 - (c) publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.






1.2 Process Applied in Developing the Plan

This DAMP has been prepared through:

- Evaluating the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017 – 2021 (what worked well and what could be improved).
- Analysing internally collected data (call centre data, animal nuisance complaints, animal registrations) to understand potential trends for consideration through research and Plan development.
- Conducting an internal review to ensure the Plan scope aligns with legislated responsibilities for local governments with regard to domestic animal management; and

- Community consultation on the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021 – 2025.

Campaspe Shire Council is committed to capturing the input of the community and stakeholders wherever possible, to provide effective leadership and enhanced delivery of services to the residents of Campaspe. The following table is from Council's Community Engagement Policy.

	 Inform	 Consult	 Involve	 Collaborate	 Empower
What Council will do	Communicate a "change", focusing on why, when and how it will happen	Communicate and seek feedback on a "change" from those affected and the broader public. Focus on why, when and how it will happen, and how community can provide feedback	To seek input to identify issues, concerns and aspirations to inform decision making and show how that input has informed the decision	We work with our community to develop a detailed understanding of all the issues and opportunities and identify agreed solutions at every step of the process	To build the capacity of our community to identify solutions and/or lead change
Level of Community Influence	Nil	Feedback may or may not impact final decision	Significant level of participation in developing concepts. Council will provide final endorsement	Equal partner in developing concepts. Council will provide final endorsement	Direct impact in finalising arrangements. Council will provide final endorsement

When do we engage?

Engagement processes are planned and implemented when it is identified that there are changes to or the introduction of new services, facilities, policies or local laws that impact our community.

Council recognises the mandated requirement to deliver suitable engagement activity that is in line with the principles of the Local Government Act 2020, there situations include: development of governance rules, preparation or revision of Council's budget, the sale, exchange, acquisition, compensation and or lease of land.

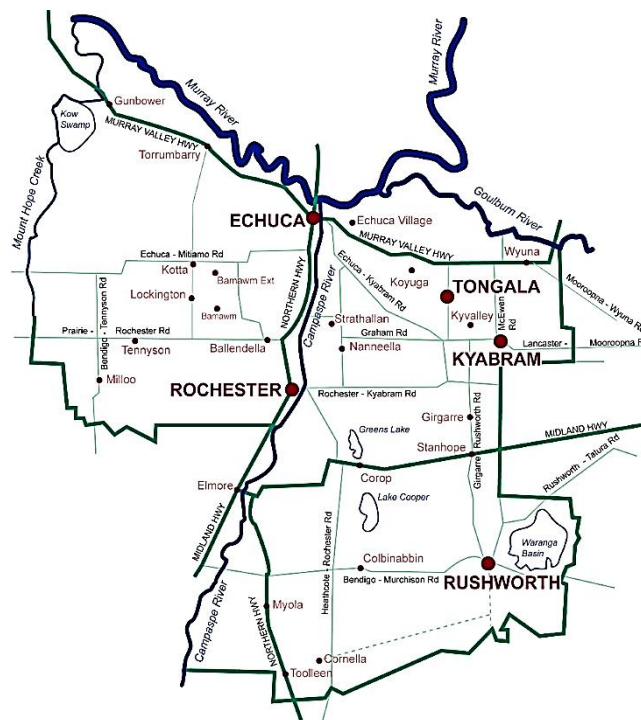
1.3 Council Profile

The Shire of Campaspe is in north central Victoria, about 180 kilometres north of central Melbourne and covers an area of approximately 4,500 square kilometres. It is a popular tourist and retirement destination.

It had an estimated residential population of 37,675 in 2020. The median age is 46 years.

Most of the community reside in the townships of Echuca, Kyabram, Gunbower, Lockington, Rochester, Rushworth, Stanhope and Tongala; however, there are many people who live and work outside of these townships.

Localities include: Ballendella, Bamawm, Bamawm Extension, Burnewang, Campaspe West, Carag Carag, Colbinabbin, Cornella, Corop, Creek View, Diggora, Dingee, Drummartin, Echuca, Echuca Village, Echuca West, Elmore, Fairy Dell, Girgarre, Gunbower, Harston, Kanyapella, Kotta, Know Swamp, Koyuga, Ky Valley, Ky West, Kyabram, Lake Cooper, Lancaster, Lockington, McEvoy's, Milloo, Mitiamo, Moora, Mount Scobie, Murchinson, Muskerri, Myola, Nanneella, Patho, Piavella, Pine Grove, Redcastle, Rochester, Roslynmead, Runnymede, Rushworth, Simmie, Stanhope, Strathallan, Taripta, Tennyson, Terrick Terrick East, Terrick Terrick West, The Settlement, Timmering, Tongala, Toolleen, Torrumbarry, Wanalta, Waranga, Waranga Shores, Wharparilla, Whroo, Wyuna, Wyuna East and Yambuna.



The Shire of Campaspe is predominantly a rural area, the main industries include dairying, tourism, food processing, cereal cropping, tomatoes, sheep/wool, aquaculture, floriculture, vegetables, feed lotting, viticulture, beef cattle and rice.

1.4 Context and Current Situation

Campaspe Shire Council provides a range of programs and services to its community to promote responsible pet ownership and maintain the health and safety of domestic animals and community members alike.

Domestic animal management services sit within the Community Safety & Recovery Division of Council. The Community Safety & Compliance department is responsible for delivery of these services through two units:

- Local Laws – Responsible for the general management of domestic animal concerns within the community, including ensuring community and animal safety through animal collection and impoundment.
- Campaspe Animal Shelter – Responsible for the housing and management of impounded and surrendered domestic animals and their reunification with owners or subsequent rehoming.

The following table provides a summary of the key programs and services provided by Council in support of responsible and effective domestic animal management within the Shire.

Program/Service:	Description of Program/Service
Identification and Registration	Administration of annual registration program, with lifetime tags. Animal registrations for 2022/2023 financial year included 7,566 dogs and 2,317 cats.
Identification Tags	Provision of animal identification tags (animal name and owner phone number) engraved onsite at Campaspe Animal Shelter for cost price, available 7 days a week.
Identification and Registration - Doorknock Campaigns	Community Rangers undertake visits to properties to check current registration of domestic animals and compliance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and Council's local laws, annually between June and October.
Domestic Animal Complaints	Response to community complaints regarding domestic animals. Community Rangers respond to complaints within 24 hours.
Dangerous Dogs Complaints	Response to community complaints regarding domestic animals. Community Rangers respond to dangerous dog complaints within 45 minutes.
Routine Street Patrols	Community Rangers are rostered to undertake town patrols daily with a target of patrols occurring on 95% of days.
Community Ranger – Home Safe Program	Community Rangers assess all domestic animals collected for identifying markers,

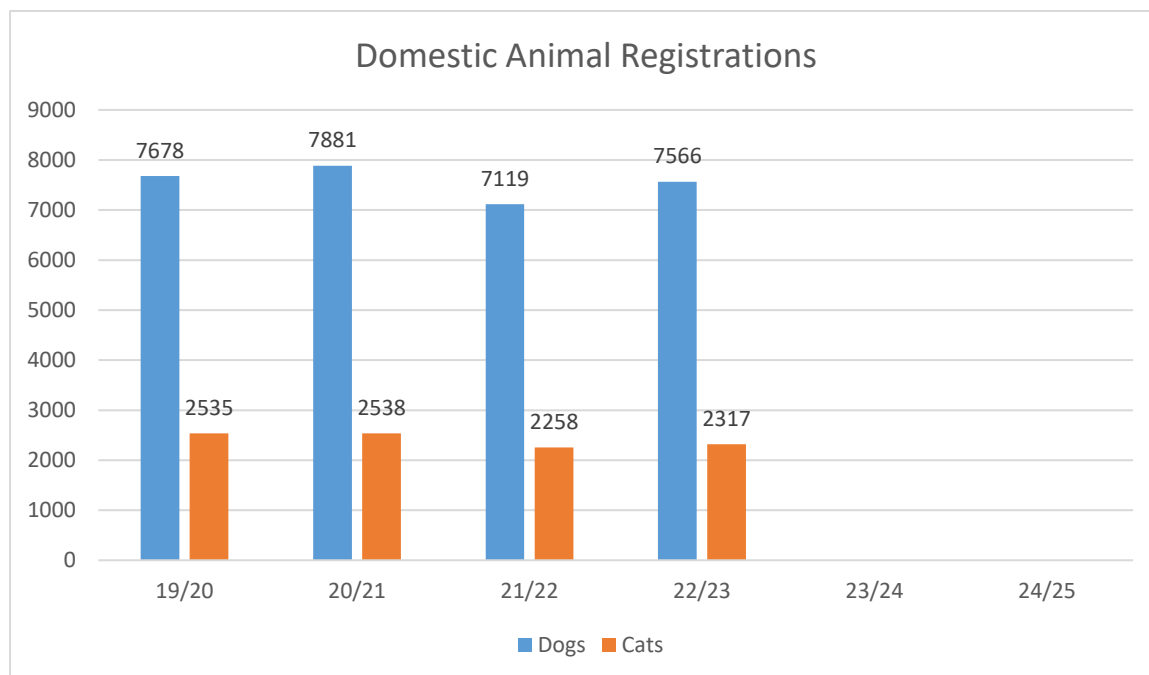
Program/Service:	Description of Program/Service
	<p>such as, microchip, identification tags, disease, temperament, and any obvious signs of injury.</p> <p>If a domestic animal can be identified and the owners contact details are current, the owner will be contacted as soon as possible and the animal returned home.</p>
After hours emergency service	On-Call Community Rangers are rostered to take calls between 5pm and 8am Monday – Friday, as well as weekends and public holidays.
Campaspe Animal Shelter	<p>Operates as a consolidated domestic animal pound and shelter.</p> <p>Open to the public via appointment system 34.5 hours per week spread across 6 days.</p>
Micro-chipping service	Provision of reduced fee micro-chipping services available to the public weekdays via appointment at the Campaspe Animal Shelter.
Reuniting Unidentified Domestic Animals	<p>Public advertising of lost domestic animals to encourage reunification with owners.</p> <p>All domestic animals that enter Campaspe's Animal Shelter have their photograph taken and uploaded on the webpage along with their description and area found.</p>
Volunteering and Foster Care	Administration of a community-based volunteering and foster-care program to support the wellbeing of domestic animals in the animal shelters care.
Work Experience and Industry Training	Campaspe Animal Shelter offers work experience opportunities for year 10 secondary school students and industry related course participants to support skills development in domestic animal management.
Community Foster Care Networks	Campaspe Animal Shelter has formal arrangements in place with independent animal rescue groups to facilitate the movement of animals for rehoming purposes, to improve local rehoming rates.
Domestic Animal Adoption Promotions	<p>Public promotion of domestic animals available for adoption to assist in increased rehoming rates.</p> <p>Methods used for promotion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaspe Animal Shelter Webpage • Campaspe Animal Shelter Facebook page

Program/Service:	Description of Program/Service
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pet Rescue subscription (national database for animals looking for homes) • Adoption boards at local vet clinic and pet shop • Animals of the week in local and regional newspapers • Reduced adoption fee promotion events
Adoption and Micro-chipping Events	<p>Provision of community education events to improve local animal adoption and micro-chipping rates.</p> <p>Conducted by Council's animal shelter staff and Community Rangers in local pet shops to promote the benefits of registration, micro-chipping, adopting and responsible pet ownership</p>
Cat Trapping Service (Suspended)	<p>Delivery and pick-up of cat traps by Community Rangers to decrease the prevalence of feral and stray cats within the community. (Council to review trapping service process)</p>
Domestic Animal Business Inspections	<p>Community Rangers conduct annual inspections of local Domestic Animal Businesses to ensure compliance with statutory requirements under the Domestic Animals Act 1994.</p>
Dangerous/Restricted Dog Inspections	<p>Community Rangers conduct regular inspections of residences holding declared dangerous dogs or restricted breeds to ensure compliance with statutory requirements under the Domestic Animals Act 1994.</p>
Additional Animal Permit Inspections	<p>Community Rangers conduct inspections of residences holding additional animals to ensure compliance with permit conditions, annually or when a complaint is received.</p>
Public Education	<p>Provision of public information to support responsible pet ownership, through a range of educational materials, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barking dog booklet • Fact Sheets • Brochures • Council and Campaspe Animal Shelter Websites and Facebook pages • Local Laws provides support and advice to Domestic Animal Businesses through annual auditing

1.5 Domestic Animal Statistics

Number of registered dogs / cats

Domestic animal registration numbers for the 2022/2023 financial year as of July 2023 comprises 7,566 dogs and 2,317 cats, an increase in the number of paid animal registrations since 2021/22. The follow up of unpaid animal registration renewals on the telephone by Community Rangers has seen an increase in registration compliance.



Number of registered domestic animal businesses

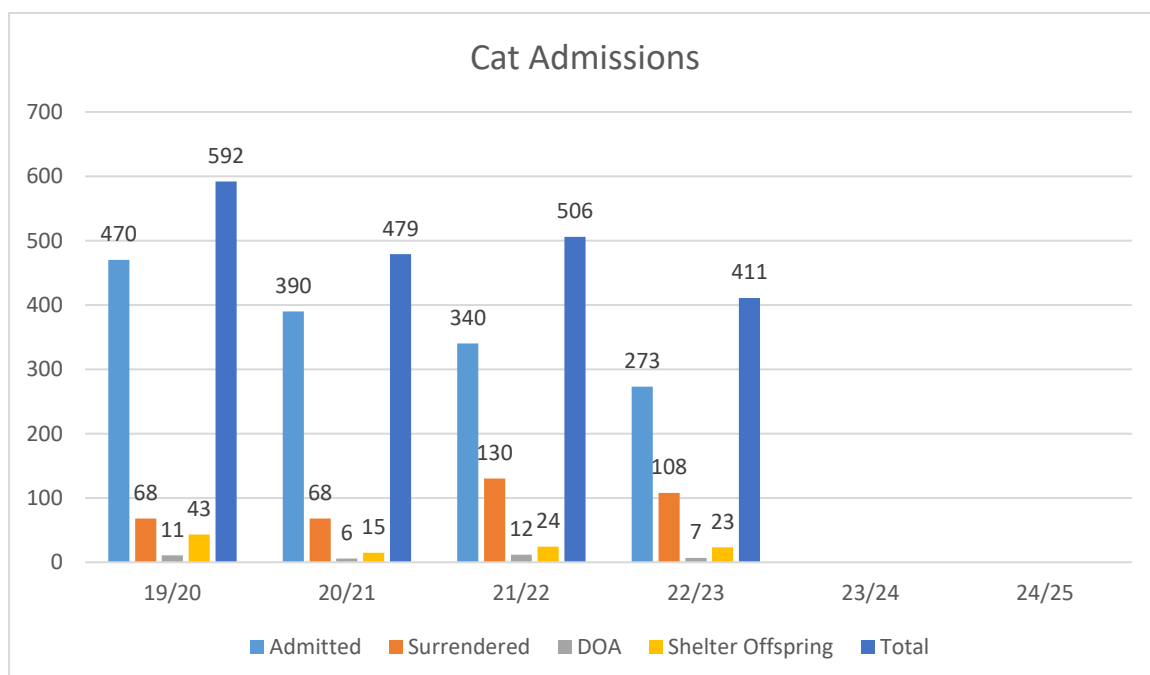
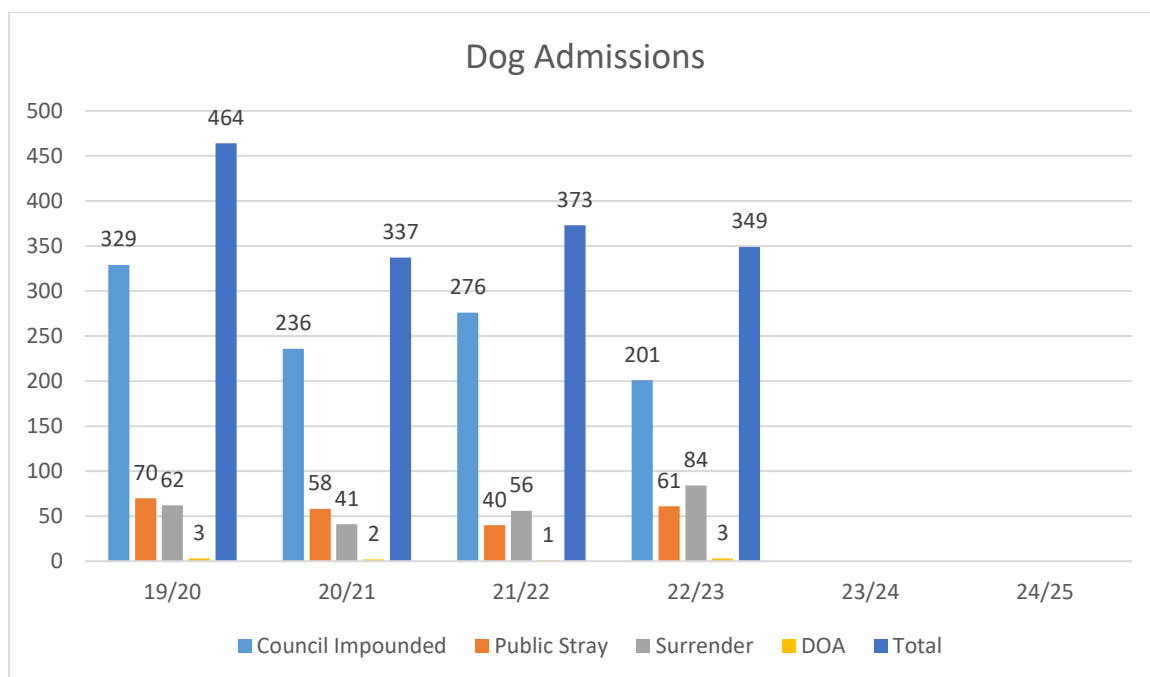
Council currently has 9 registered Domestic Animal Businesses.

Number of animals seized/surrendered.

The graphs below illustrate the number of animals seized/surrendered to the Campaspe Animal Shelter by Council Community Rangers impoundment and by direct public surrender.

2022/2023 financial year there was a slight reduction in domestic animals impounded overall. Staffing shortages and the freeze on issuing cat traps from Council to the public are likely to have contributed to the decrease.

Note: Feral animals not included

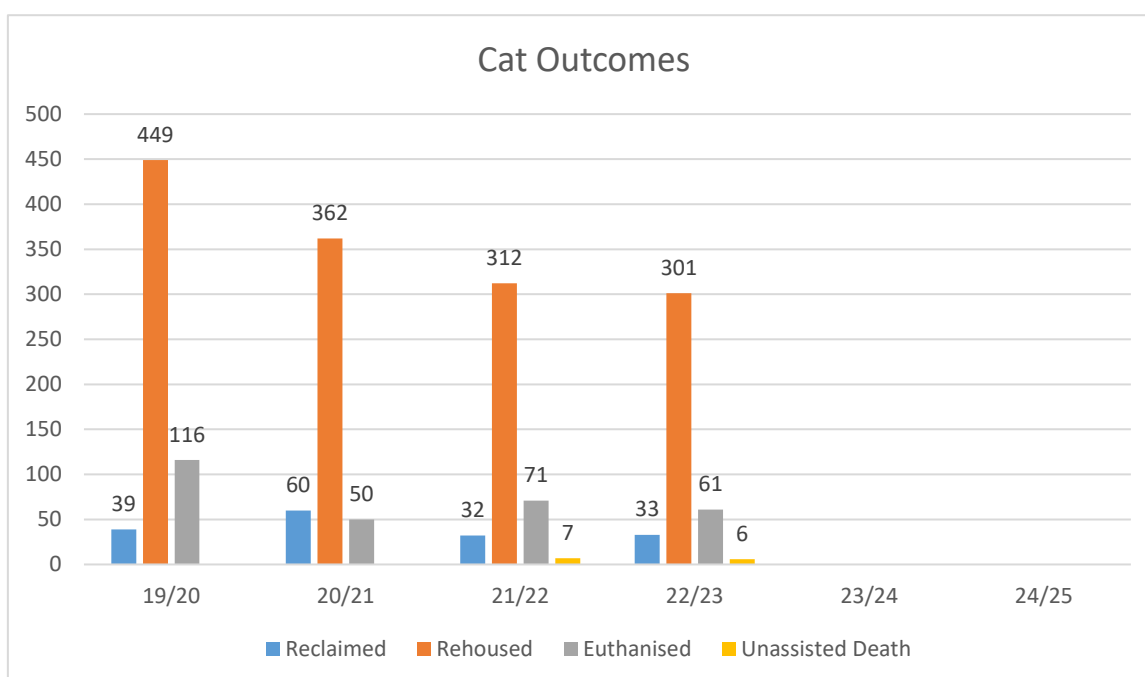
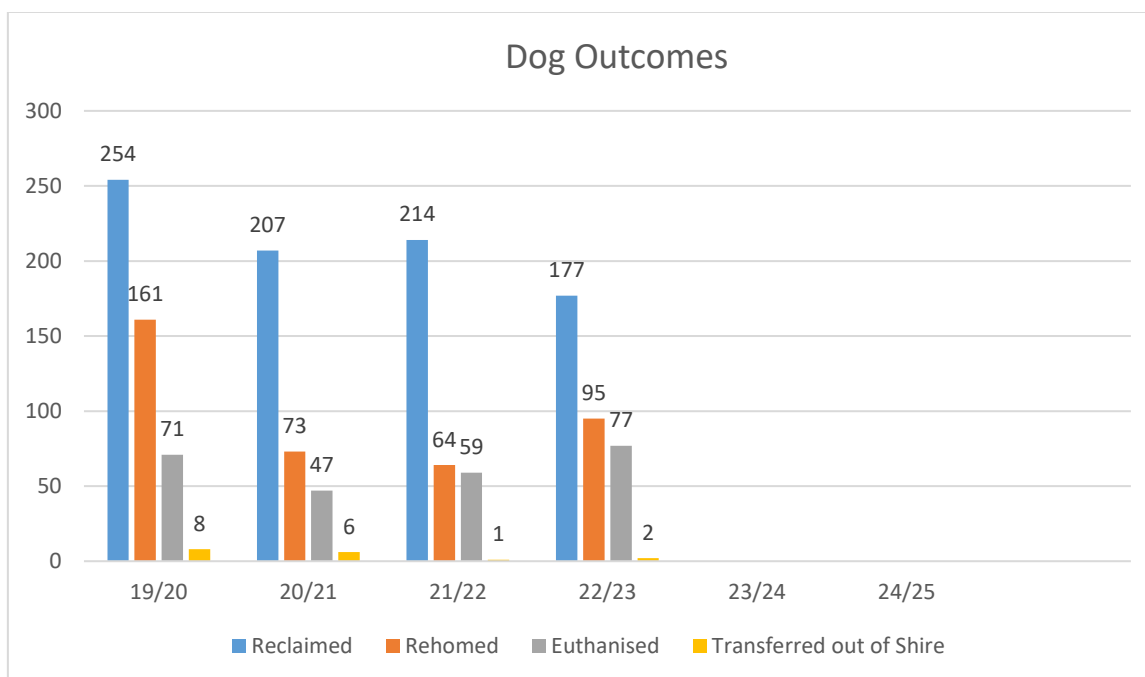


Number of cats/dogs reclaimed/rehomed/euthanised.

The graphs below illustrate the number of cats/dogs reclaimed, rehomed and euthanised through the Campaspe Animal Shelter.

2023/2023 Financial year reclaimed animals decreased by 10.65%, rehoused animals increased by 7.86% and euthanasia rates increased by 0.06% compared to the 2021/2022 period.

Note: Dogs transferred out of Shire = dogs that were impounded on behalf of RSPCA. Feral animals not included.



Number of complaints relating to cats and dogs

During the 22/23 financial year Community and On Call Rangers dealt with 1,256 complaints in relation to dogs and cats. These ranged from dogs at large, requests for cat traps, barking & nuisance dogs, dog attacks and surrender of animals.

2. TRAINING OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Council is responsible for providing a range of important services to the community in relation to the management of domestic animals within the municipality. In this regard it is vital that Council's front-line and support staff are equipped with the skills and knowledge to provide a responsive and professional service which additionally complies with Council's statutory obligations.

Council is committed to the training and development of all employees and recognises the complexity of managing often divergent community demands, opinions, and expectations in relation to domestic animals. Council provides training for authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Full time Community Rangers are required to hold (or be undertaking) the relevant statutory training of Certificate IV in Government and Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation.

2.1 Context and Current Situation

Council currently employs two full time Community Rangers and two full time Parking/Local Laws Officer who are all Authorised Officers. One Community Ranger and one Parking/Local Laws Officer have achieved their Certificate IV in Government & Animal Control. The other two Officers are currently studying for their Certificate IV in Government & Animal Control.

Council also has one casual on-call Authorised Officers who perform their normal duties with other areas at Council.

The following table outlines Council's full-time Community Rangers current training and qualifications:

Training Activity	Schedule
Certificate IV in Government and Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation	As required for new Community Rangers
Conflict Resolution Training	Annually
Customer Service Training	Annually
Defensive Driving Training	As programmed
The Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action (DEECA) /Animal Welfare Victoria/information seminars	As programmed
First Aid	Annually
Animal Handling Training	As required
Animal Assessment Training	As required
Investigation and Prosecution Training	As required
Council e-learning - LMS (Learning Management System) training	As programmed
Firearm (bolt gun) Training	Upon commencement and as required
AIAM (Australian Institute of Animal Management) seminars	As programmed
AWV (Animal Welfare Victoria) seminars	As programmed
Restricted Breed Dog Identification	As programmed
Working in Remote Areas Training	As programmed
Pandemic (COVID-19) Training	Ongoing

Performance measures from Council's previous Domestic Animal Management plan and outcomes:

Activity	When	Evaluation	Outcomes
Identify minimum training requirements by consultation with management and staff	Annually	Training schedule developed, approved and incorporated into officer's induction and annual training plans	All Council learning management (LMS) completed.
Ensure all new Authorised Officers have completed the minimum training requirements within 12 months of appointment	12 months from commencement of new employment	Completion of induction reviews and annual reviews	All Council learning (LMS) completed at time of performance review. New Authorised Officers currently enrolled in Certificate IV Government and Certificate IV Animal Control and Regulation.

2.2 Our Planned Training for Authorised Officers

Council has role specific compliance training plans in place for all departments. When developing annual performance objectives Council uses the SMART model, by using this model the objectives set can be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely.

The performance of staff and their attendance at the required training is measured on an annual basis.

Activity	Schedule
Identify minimum training requirements by consultation with management and staff	Annually
Ensure all new authorised officers have completed the minimum training requirements within 12 months of appointment	Annually
Conflict Resolution Training	Annually
Customer Service Training	Annually
Defensive Driving Training	As programmed
The Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action (DEECA) /Animal Welfare Victoria/information seminars	As programmed
First Aid	Annually
Animal Handling Training	As required
Animal Assessment Training	As required
Investigation and Prosecution Training	As required
Council e-learning - LMS (Learning Management System) training	As programmed

Activity	Schedule
Firearm (bolt gun) Training	Upon Commencement and as required
AIAM (Australian Institute of Animal Management) seminars	As programmed
AWV (Animal Welfare Victoria) seminars	As programmed
Restricted Breed Dog Identification	As programmed
Working in Remote Areas Training	As programmed
Pandemic (COVID-19) Training	Ongoing

2.3 Our Plan

Council plans to ensure that all staff are trained in the latest appropriate skills to meet the requirements of being Authorised Officers.

Council liaises with Animal Welfare Victoria and Agriculture Victoria in relation to the latest qualifications and/or opportunities that may be available to staff to further their learning and qualifications.

Council has a dedicated Training Coordinator who is notified or identifies what training is required by Authorised Officers. They then ensure that these training opportunities are offered to all relevant staff when they become available.

Council has not Authorised any non-employees under Section 72A of the Domestic Animals Act.

Training objectives that Council will need to consider over the next four years in relation to new Authorised Officers who may come into the Local Laws Unit.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Identify minimum training requirements by consultation with management, staff and outside organisations i.e. Agriculture Victoria and Animal Welfare Victoria	Assessed as required or notified	To be added to HR training program as necessary.
Identify additional training opportunities by consultation with management, staff and outside organisations i.e., Agriculture Victoria and Animal Welfare Victoria	As identified	To be added to HR training program as identified as being a required training opportunity.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Animal Handling training	As new On Call staff come into the Local Laws Unit	Certified course
Certificate IV in Government and Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation	When new Community Rangers come into the Local Laws Unit	Certified Course – Pass/Fail

3. PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

3.1 Context and Current Situation

The Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action (DEECA) operate state-wide education programs and activities through Animal Welfare Victoria. They manage all school visitation programs.

Council provides information to support responsible pet ownership through a range of educational materials in the form of brochures, a barking dog booklet, fact sheets and posts on the Council and Campaspe Animal Shelter websites and Facebook pages. Refer to Appendix A.

3.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Current Orders

The compliance 11 framework is a service charter that:

- Guides Council officers working in the delivery, management and response to compliance issues to ensure consistency across the organisation.
- Provides clarity and certainty to the community about Council's approach to compliance.

Within the shire there are specific areas where dog/s must be on a lead, under control at all times or where no dogs are allowed. Refer to Appendix B.

There are also specific off-lead areas within the municipality where dog/s can be exercised with a lead, however, they must still be able to be controlled by calling its name or making a similar command.

Note: Although Council encourages dog exercise, it has banned dogs from children's playgrounds as it is not appropriate that users of these reserves encounter dog droppings. In areas such as the Aquatic Reserve, Echuca, where "dogs are to be under control at all times", the owner must:

- carry a chain, cord or leash sufficient to bring the dog under effective control if the dog behaves in a manner that threatens any person or animal.
- remain in effective voice or hand control of the dog so as to be able to promptly bring the dog under effective control by placing the dog on a chain, cord or leash if that becomes necessary.

- not allow the dog to worry or threaten any person or animal.

Current Local Laws

Campaspe Shire Council General Local Law No 9 2022

- Adequate fencing to prevent the escape of animals or livestock

An owner or occupier of land, on which an animal or livestock is kept, must ensure that the land is adequately fenced so as to prevent the escape of the animal or livestock from the land.

- Protection of other animals and native fauna and flora

An owner of an animal, or an owner or occupier of land on which an animal is kept, must ensure that the animal does not harm or kill, or destroy, any native fauna or flora, or any other animal.

- Domestic animal nuisance to neighbours

An owner or occupier of land must ensure that any animal or bird kept on the land does not cause a nuisance to surrounding or neighbouring landowners.

- Dog excrement

(1) A person in charge of a dog on a road or on council land must:

- (a) Not permit the excrement of the dog to remain on that road or on that council land; and
- (b) Carry a device suitable for the removal of any excrement that may be deposited by the dog; and
- (c) Produce the device on the request of an authorised officer.

3.3 Our Plan

Over the next four years, Council will continue strategies to decrease the number of domestic animal complaints and to increase community awareness and education. Council will continue to work with the community and relevant industry groups to promote responsible pet ownership.

Objective Increase education in relation to current and future programs that promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislation. Refer to Appendix A.

4. PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS OVER-POPULATION RATES AND ANY HIGH EUTHANASIA RATES

4.1 Context and Current Situation

Council policies and procedures are guided by the Domestic Animals Act 1994. The promotion of micro-chipping and registration of domestic animals has a strong emphasis on the return of lost pets to their owners as a key reason.

Council's Community Ranger – Home Safe Program aims to return any domestic animal to its owner whenever possible.

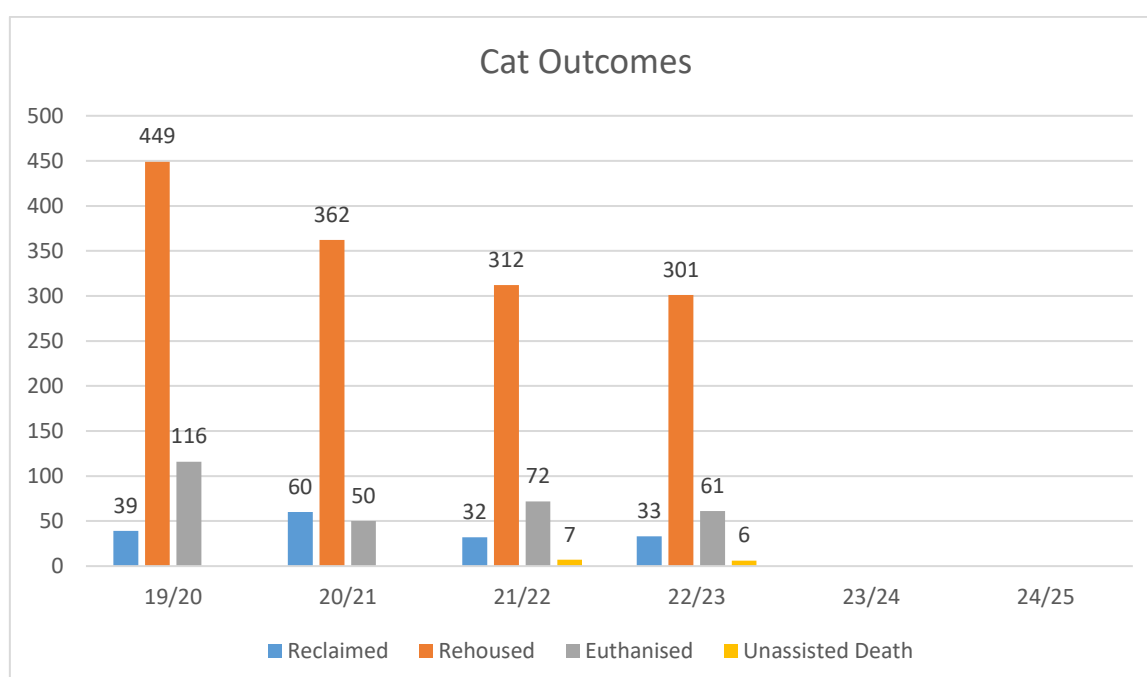
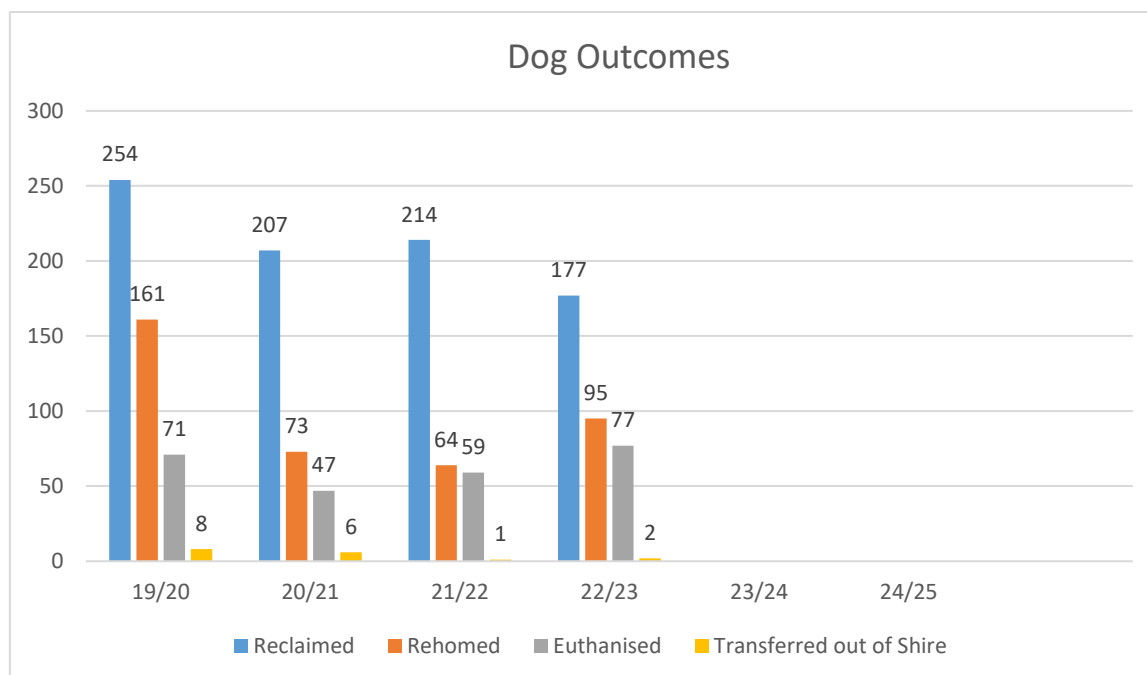
The Campaspe Animal Shelter has a successful re-homing program for domestic animals. In 2022/2023 financial year 55% out of 172 dogs that were not reclaimed by their owners were rehoused, with 45% of dogs that were not reclaimed by their owners were euthanised.

Whereas with cats 82% out of 368 of those that were not reclaimed by their owners were rehoused and 17% were euthanised.

Those animals that were not reclaimed or rehoused were mostly reported to have significant health and/or temperament issues.

Dog euthanasia rates increased during the 2022/2023 show a 12% increase compared to 2021/2022 financial year. Relaxing of Victorian Covid-19 restrictions and life returning to normal has seen an increase in unsocialised dog surrenders and dog attacks.

Cat euthanasia rates show a 1% decrease in the 2022/2023 financial year. Continued cases of FIV and chronic FURZ cats.



Council's objective is to drive down euthanasia rates through responsible pet ownership that includes identification and registration. The key activities are:

- To continue to run animal adoption programs from the animal shelter and work with local businesses to run adoption days.
- Promote identification and registration of domestic animals and to continue to work with local businesses to run reduced price micro-chipping days.
- Continue to undertake door knocking program across the municipality to identify animals that are not micro-chipped or registered with Council.
- Investigate reports of unregistered breeders.
- Promoting the benefits of desexing.
- Promoting cat enclosures.
- Advertise all impounded pets online.
- Micro-chipping and registering of impounded animals prior to release to the owner.
- Continue to have limits on the number of animals that can reside in one household to ensure the health and well-being of domestic animals, and to minimise inappropriate practices such as hoarding domestic animals.

In Council's previous Domestic Animal Management Plan the key objective was to drive down euthanasia rates through responsible pet ownership that includes identification and registration. Refer to Appendix A.

4.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Related Council Policies and Documents:

- Campaspe Shire Council General Local Law No 9, 2022
- Local Laws – Animal Control – Policy & Procedure manual
- Local Law Policy & Procedure Manual
- Animal Control Work Service Plan
- Campaspe Animal Shelter – Animal Health Plan
- Campaspe Shire Council Compliance 11 Service Charter

Current Orders

Campaspe Shire Council does not have any current orders in place.

Current Local Laws

General Local Law No 9, 2022 – Part 4 – Animals

General Local Law No 9 enables officers to enforce the Domestic Animals Act and the requirements of the Local Law. This major review provides an opportunity for community consultation and involvement. Changes may be necessary to enable the best outcome for the Community and the animals within the Community. Until this review occurs the current local law stands. The following section outlines the current requirements of the local law.

Dogs and Cats

- (a) An owner or occupier of land must not, without a permit, keep or allow to be kept more than two dogs and / or two cats on that land.
- (b) For the purpose of calculating the maximum number of dogs or cats kept, any progeny may be lawfully kept, without a permit, for 12 weeks after birth; and

- (c) Council may by resolution exempt any class of dog or cat from the requirement to be kept with a permit under Clause 42(1).

Keeping Animals in Residential Areas

- (a) An owner or occupier of land must not keep, or allow to be kept without a permit, more than four different types of animals on that land at any time or allow to be kept any more in number for each type of animal than as set out in the following table:

Type of Animal	Maximum allowed in residential areas	Maximum allowed in rural living areas	Maximum allowed in rural areas
Dogs	2	2	5
Cats	2	2	5
Poultry (other than turkeys and geese)	8 Fowl 2 Ducks. This includes chicks and ducklings.	8 Fowl 2 Ducks This includes chicks and ducklings	No limit. No Local Law permit required
Turkeys and Geese	None	None	No limit. No Local Law permit required
Pigs	None	None	No limit. No Local Law permit required
Horses, Donkeys, Camels, Cattle, Sheep, Goats	None	None	No limit. No Local Law permit required
Ferrets	None	No limit. No Local Law permit required	No limit. No Local Law permit required
Guinea Pigs	6	6	No limit. No Local Law permit required
Domestic Birds	6	6	No limit. No Local Law permit required
Pigeons	50	50	No limit. No Local Law permit required

Type of Animal	Maximum allowed in residential areas	Maximum allowed in rural living areas	Maximum allowed in rural areas
Domestic Rabbits	10	10	No limit. No Local Law permit required
Any other livestock or agricultural animal	None	None	No limit. No Local Law permit required
Roosters	None	2	No limit. No Local Law permit required

- (b) Sub clause (1) does not apply if a planning permit has been obtained for land used for the purposes of animal boarding, breeding, keeping, or training.

Keeping of Animals

4. In determining whether to grant a permit for the keeping of animals where the number exceeds that which is set out in the Table to clause 43 (2), the Council must take into account: -
- (a) the zoning of the land;
 - (b) the proximity of the area to adjoining properties;
 - (c) the amenity of the area to that of adjoining properties;
 - (d) the type and additional numbers of animals to be kept;
 - (e) the area of land available for keeping the animals;
 - (f) the likely effects on adjoining owners or occupiers;
 - (g) whether the animals are being temporarily homed under an approved community foster care network;
 - (h) the adequacy of animal shelters; and
 - (i) whether the animals have been desexed; and
 - (j) any other matter relevant to the circumstances associated with the application.

Accommodation for Animals - Shelters

5. In determining what may be reasonable shelter, consideration should be given to:
- (a) the type of animal to be kept;
 - (b) the height of the shelter;
 - (c) the distance from the street frontage of the property;
 - (d) the distance from any other street or road;
 - (e) the distance from the boundary of any adjoining property; and
 - (f) the distance from any dwelling.

in accordance with the *Animal Welfare Victoria – Code of Practice for Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds*.

6. All animal shelters must be constructed in accordance with the following standards:
 - (a) The floor area of any animal shelter must be sized to allow 0.7 square metres of floor area for each head of poultry kept or be of a size approved by Council for keeping of any other animal.
 - (b) An animal shelter must be located in a position approved by Council.
 - (c) Animal shelters must be constructed of approved materials and be roofed so as to exclude all rainwater. Roof drainage is to be connected to an approved stormwater system.
 - (d) The floor of an animal shelter shall be constructed in an approved material and the finished floor level shall be a minimum of 80mm above surrounding ground level.
 - (e) Shelters for poultry and domestic birds shall be constructed so as to be rodent proof.
 - (f) Poultry houses shall be constructed with a minimum 200mm plinth directly above and around the edge of the floor capable of holding a bed of litter of a minimum depth of 200mm.
7. All animal shelters must be maintained in accordance with the following standards so that:
 - (a) All manure, litter and other waste is removed and / or treated as often as necessary so that it does not cause a nuisance or offensive condition;
 - (b) All manure, litter and other waste to be stored in a fly and vermin proof receptacle until removed from the premises or otherwise disposed of to the satisfaction of the authorised officer;
 - (c) The ground surrounding the shelter is drained to the satisfaction of the authorised officer;
 - (d) The area of land within 3 metres of the area or structure in which the animal is kept must be kept free from dry grass, weeds, refuse, rubbish or other material capable of harbouring vermin;
 - (e) All animal food, grain or chaff is kept in vermin proof receptacles; and
 - (f) The area where animals are kept must be thoroughly cleaned and maintained at all times in a clean and sanitary manner so as not to give rise to any nuisance and to the satisfaction of the authorised officer.

Keeping of Livestock

A person must not, without a permit, keep livestock on land which is less than one (1) hectare in area.

Pigeons

A person must not in a residential area exercise pigeons other than during 2 hours after sunrise or 2 hours before sunset.

Adequate Fencing

An owner or occupier of land on which an animal is kept must ensure that the land is adequately fenced so as to prevent the animal's escape from the land.

Protection of Other Animals and Native Fauna and Flora

An owner of an animal, or an owner or occupier of land on which the animal is kept, must ensure that the animal does not harm or kill, or destroy, any native fauna or flora, or any other animal, other than on the animal owner's property.

Nuisances

An owner or occupier of land must ensure that any animal or bird kept on the land does not cause a nuisance to surrounding or neighbouring landowners.

Dog Excrement

A person in charge of a dog on a road or in a municipal place must:

- (a) Not permit the excrement of the dog to remain on that road or in that municipal place;
- (b) Carry a device suitable for the removal of any excrement that may be deposited by the dog; and
- (c) Produce the device on demand by an Authorised Officer.

Horses on Reservations

- (a) A person must not, without a permit, ride or lead a horse on a footpath or nature strip in a residential area; and
- (b) Council or an Authorised Officer may exempt a person from the requirement under sub clause (a) to obtain a permit

Current Policies and Procedures

- Campaspe Shire Council General Local Law No 9, 2022
- Local Laws – Animal Control – Policy & Procedure manual
- Local Law Policy & Procedure Manual
- Animal Control Work Service Plan
- Campaspe Animal Shelter – Animal Health Plan

4.3 Our Plan

Over the next four years Council will introduce strategies to decrease the number of domestic animal complaints, euthanasia rates, over population and to increase community awareness and education. Council will continue to work with the community and relevant industry groups to promote responsible pet ownership. Refer to Appendix A.

5. REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

The Victorian Domestic Animals Act 1994 requires the owner of a dog or cat to apply to register that dog or cat with the Council of the municipal district in which the dog or cat is kept, if the animal is over 3 months of age. The cat or dog must have been implanted with a prescribed permanent identification device (microchip) prior to being registered. Registered pets are also required to wear an identification marker issued by Council outside their premises.

Registration fees help to fund the animal management services provided by Council, the responsible pet ownership program and other educational programs run by the Victorian State Government.

5.1 Context and Current Situation

Council registration for domestic animals is not only a legislative requirement but it also importantly supports the reunification of pets with their owners, which in turn minimises the distress to the pet from being confined in an unfamiliar environment. A domestic animal found with a microchip and Council registration tag has a much higher chance of being reunited with its owner rather than being impounded at the Campaspe Animal Shelter.

The number of unregistered animals that enter the Campaspe Animal Shelter is still at a high rate, which suggests many unregistered pets exist within the municipality.

All domestic animals impounded must be microchipped and registered with their local Council prior to the animal being released back to its owner.

Reduced registration fees are available for categories of dogs and cats including those that are desexed, over 10 years old, used as a working dog and for pet owners who are pension concession card holders.

Lifetime registration tags are issued for each domestic animal registered with Council, and Council utilises post mail, email, and text messaging in the registration renewal process.

Council also provides a reduced fee microchipping service to ensure all domestic animals can be identified and registered with Council. The microchipping and Council animal registration can all be processed at Campaspe Animal Shelter.

In Council's previous Domestic Animal Management Plan, a key objective was to maintain the number of dog and cat registrations in line with population growth within the municipality. The outcomes for this objective are listed below. Refer to Appendix A.

5.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Current Orders

- Domestic Animals Act 1994 Part 2 – Registration of dogs and cats Division 1 – Registration Requirements.

Current Local Laws

- Campaspe Shire Council General Local Law No.9, 2022 Part 4 – Animals refer to chapter 4.2

Current Policies and Procedures

- Campaspe Shire Council General Local Law No.9, 2022
- Local Laws – Animal Control – Policy & Procedure manual
- Local Law Policy & Procedure Manual
- Animal Control Work Service Plan
- Campaspe Animal Shelter – Animal Health Plan
- Campaspe Shire Council Compliance 11 Service Charter
- Application for registration & renewal of registration
- Council Fees & Charges schedule
- Animal Admission Form
- Surrender Form
- Euthanasia Form

Our Current Compliance Activities

- Conduct door knocking program to identify unregistered domestic animals across the municipality
- Follow up with owner who fail to re-register their animals during the annual registration process
- All seized and impounded domestic animals are microchipped and registered prior to their release
- All animals made available for adoption are microchipped and desexed prior to adoption. Shire of Campaspe residents adopting a cat or dog register the animal with Council at the time of adoption.
- Email notification sent to Council's each week of animals that have been adopted from Campaspe Animal Shelter to enable them to follow up for registration
- Conduct routine patrols across the municipality
- Reduced fee microchipping service and events to encourage identification and registration

5.3 Our Plan

Over the next four years Council will introduce strategies to decrease the number of unregistered domestic animals and to increase community awareness and education. Council will continue to work with the community and relevant industry groups to promote responsible pet ownership.

Objective Increase education in relation to current and future programs that promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislation. Refer to Appendix A.

6. NUISANCE

The regulations for managing domestic animal nuisance, relating to noise, trespassing, and wandering at large are contained within the Victorian Domestic Animals Act 1994. Campaspe Shire Council has also introduced several Local Laws to help minimise and prevent nuisances.

6.1 Context and Current Situation

Nuisance domestic animals not only create disturbances in the community, but they also pose a risk to other animals and/or wildlife and can be the cause of disharmony between neighbours. Council therefore has a designated role under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to respond to and manage nuisance animals.

The main types of nuisance complaints that Community Rangers deal with are trespassing, wandering at large and, to a lesser extent, barking dogs.

The number of animals seized and impounded at Campaspe Animal Shelter show that cats are the main nuisance animals within the municipality. Euthanasia of trapped feral cats remains a vexed issue, with the protection of wildlife in a rural environment necessitating that this service be provided.

Council provides on average 250 cat traps to the community each year – (Suspended at present)

On average only 8% of cats impounded are reclaimed by their owners, whereas the percentages are much higher with impounded dogs averaging around 40-50% reclaimed by their owners.

Council seeks to reduce the potential for nuisance behaviours through a range of proactive initiatives, while ensuring that resources are in place to respond to instances of nuisance behaviour.

Current programs in place to minimise the incidence of nuisance domestics animals include:

- Routine patrols across the municipality
- Maximum 24-hour response time to nuisance complaints
- Provision of cat cages for trapping nuisance cats (currently suspended)
- Media releases reinforcing responsible animal ownership
- Barking dog booklet
- Cat confinement brochures

In Council's previous Domestic Animal Management Plan the key objective was to support and encourage animal owners to manage their pets in a way that minimises the potential for nuisance complaints. Refer to Appendix A.

6.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Current Orders

- Domestic Animals Act 1994

Current Local Laws

- Campaspe Shire Council General Local Law No.9, 2022 Part 4 – Animals refer to chapter 4.2

Current Policies and Procedures

- Campaspe Shire Council Compliance 11 Service Charter
- Campaspe Animal Shelter Health Management Plan
- P01 Assessment for admission to the pound or shelter
- P05 Euthanasia
- P06 Assessing animals for rehoming
- P10 Long-term impoundment
- P11 Assessment of animals unfit for continued care
- P12 Essential care of animals
- P14 Transportation of animals
- P15 Trapped cats
- P16 Microchipping
- P19 Record keeping
- P20 Acceptable animal species and animal stocking rates
- P21 Receipt of animals after-hours
- P21 Safe handling of animals
- P22 Personal Protective Equipment

Our Current Compliance Activities

- Routine patrols
- Door knocking program
- Investigate all nuisance complaints
- Issuing notices to comply (NTC) and infringements where necessary
- Prosecution of unresolved ongoing nuisance complaints
- Monitor social media websites and Pet Exchange Register for backyard breeding
- Auditing of Domestic Animal Businesses
- Auditing of properties where dangerous dogs are housed
- Maintain a register of complaints on Council's corporate information systems
- Provide cat traps to residents to reduce the number of unowned cats and responding to complaints about trespassing (Suspended program at present.)
- Ensuring microchip and Council registration records are up to date when releasing or adopting out an impounded or seized domestic animal.
- Promotion of responsible pet ownership through the media, social media, Council's website, and community microchipping events
- Review and include the designated dog restriction areas within Council's Local Laws
- Include fact sheets and brochures in adoption packs to improve public awareness on responsible pet ownership and containment of domestic animals

6.3 Our Plan

Over the next four years Council will introduce strategies to support and encourage animal owners to manage their pets in a way that minimises the potential for nuisance complaints. Council will continue to work with the community and relevant industry groups to promote responsible pet ownership. Refer to Appendix A.

7. DOG ATTACKS

Dog attacks are amongst the most serious of domestic animal issues as they can pose a risk to human health, and also to the health of other domestic and livestock animals. Council has a vital role to play in helping to minimise dog attacks in the community, predominately through enforcement and education activities.

7.1 Context and Current Situation

The number of dogs attacks reported annually has fluctuated over the past five years. There were 39 Rushing, Minor & Serious dog attacks reported to Council in the 2022/2023 financial year.

Council provides resources to the community to assist residents in the understanding of the training needs of dogs, risk factors, as well as, how to interact with dogs in the home and in the community.

Campaspe Animal Shelter also ensures that dogs rehomed are temperament tested to ensure they are suitable for adoption.

Council takes dog attacks very seriously, reducing the risk of dog attacks will remain a high priority over the life of the plan. Authorised officers will promptly respond to all dog attack reports within targeted timeframes and will raise awareness amongst dog owners on how to reduce the risk of dog attacks.

The Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action (DEECA) operate state-wide education programs and activities through Animal Welfare Victoria. They manage all school visitation programs.

Campaspe Shire Council provides information to support responsible pet ownership through a range of educational materials in the form of brochures, barking dog booklet, fact sheets and posts on the Council and Campaspe Animal Shelter websites and Facebook pages.

In Council's previous Domestic Animal Management Plan the key objective was to minimise the number of dog attacks across the municipality. Refer to Appendix A.

7.2 Our Orders, Local Laws. Council Policies and Procedures

Current Orders

- Domestic Animals Act 1994

Current Local Laws

- Campaspe Shire Council General Local Law No.9, 2022 Part 4 – Animals refer to chapter 4.2

Current Policies and Procedures

- Campaspe Shire Council General Local Law No.9, 2022
- Local Laws – Animal Control – Policy & Procedure manual
- Local Law Policy & Procedure Manual
- Animal Control Work Service Plan
- Campaspe Animal Shelter – Animal Health Plan
- Campaspe Shire Council Compliance 11 Service Charter
- Application for registration & renewal of registration
- Council Fees & Charges schedule
- Animal Admission Form
- Surrender Form
- Euthanasia Form

Our Current Compliance Activities

- Routine patrols
- Door knocking program
- Investigate all dog attack complaints within 45 minutes 24 hours a day 7 days a week
- Provide afterhours service to respond to reports of aggressive or attacking dogs
- Seizing and holding dogs that have attacked pending investigation/prosecution outcome
- Issuing infringements for minor attacks where non serious injury was sustained
- Auditing of properties where dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs are housed
- Maintain a register of complaints on Councils corporate information systems
- Ensuring microchip and Council registration records are up to date when releasing an impounded or seized domestic animal.

- Promotion of responsible pet ownership through the media, social media, Council's website, and community microchipping events
- Include fact sheets and brochures in adoption packs to improve public awareness on responsible pet ownership and preventing dog attacks in the home and community

7.3 Our Plan

Over the next four years Council will introduce strategies to minimise the number of risks associated with dog attacks and increase the reporting of dog attacks across the municipality. Council will continue to work with the community and relevant industry groups to promote responsible pet ownership. Refer to Appendix A.

8. DANGEROUS, MENACING AND RESTRICTED BREED DOGS

Council is responsible for declaring a dog as dangerous, menacing or a restricted breed under the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Dangerous Dogs

A dangerous dog is one that Council has declared to be dangerous because it has bitten or attacked a person or animal, causing serious injury or death.

The Domestic Animals Act 1994 Division 3 Particular provisions for the control of dangerous dogs empowers councils to declare a dog to be 'dangerous' if (S.34):

- If the dog has caused the death of or serious injury to a person or animal by biting or attacking that person or animals; or
- If the dog is a menacing dog and its owner has received at least 2 infringement notices in respect of the offence in section 41E: or
- If the dog has been declared a dangerous dog under a law of another State or Territory of the Commonwealth that corresponds with this Division: or
- If there has been a finding of guilt or the serving of an infringement notice (which has not been withdrawn and the penalty has been paid under the Infringements Act 2006) in respect of 2 or more offences under section 29 (5), (6), (7) or (8) in respect of the dog; or
- For any other reason prescribed.

Serious injury to a person or animal is an injury requiring medical or veterinary attention in the nature of:

- a broken bone
- a laceration
- the total or partial loss of sensation or function in a part of the body
- an injury requiring cosmetic surgery.

Menacing dog

A menacing dog is one that Council has been declared to be a menacing dog because it has caused a non-serious bite injury to a person or animal, or it rushes at or chases a person.

The Domestic Animals Act 1994 Division 3A – Particular provisions for the control of menacing dogs empowers Councils to declare a dog to be 'menacing' if (S.41A):

- the dog has rushed at or chased a person; or

- the dog bites any person or animal causing injury to that person or animal that is not in the nature of a serious injury; or
- the dog has been declared a menacing dog under a law of another State or Territory of the Commonwealth that corresponds with this Division.

Restricted breed dogs

Restricted breed dogs are defined as dogs that fit the government Approved Standard for Restricted Breed Dogs in Victoria (standard). The standard is published in the Victorian Government Gazette which is the legal formatted document for use by enforcement agencies.

The Domestic Animals Act 1994 definition of a restricted breed dog is a dog that is any one of these breeds:

- Japanese Tosa;
- Fila Brasileiro;
- Dogo Argentino;
- Perro de Presa Canario (or Presa Canario);
- American Pit Bull Terrier (or Pit Bull Terrier)

8.1 Context and Current Situation

There is one Declared Dangerous dog in the Campaspe Shire Council area.

There are eight registered menacing or restricted breed dogs.

Council does receive customer services requests each year to investigate potentially dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dogs. These are often matters involving a dog attack or a report of an aggressive dog.

Restricted breed declared dangerous or menacing dogs are not a significant issue within the Campaspe Shire Council. Council staff still regularly review and update the Victorian Declared Dog Registry (VDDR) and monitor recorded dogs to ensure the Domestic Animals Act 1994 requirements are being adhered to.

Council's objective is to ensure that those dogs that are declared dangerous, menacing and those of restricted breed are kept in accordance with Victoria legislation.

When restricted breed, declared dangerous or menacing dogs are recorded in the municipality Council will:

- Undertake regular patrols of industrial and commercial areas after hours to identify dangerous dogs on premises
- Conduct annual audits of premises where declared or restricted dogs are housed to ensure compliance
- Provide owners with restricted breed or declared dangerous or menacing dogs with up-to-date information regarding their responsibilities for housing and caring for the dog
- Record the declared dogs on the VDDR and Council's database

In Council's previous Domestic Animal Management Plan the key objective was to minimise the risks of dog attack to the community from dangerous dogs to ensure that those dogs that are declared dangerous, menacing and those of restricted breed are kept in accordance with the legislation. Refer to Appendix A.

8.2 Our Policies and Procedures

Campaspe Shire Council uses the legislation of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to enforce Dangerous, Menacing & Restricted breed dogs.

Current Policies and Procedures

- Local Laws - Animal Control – Policy & Procedure manual
- Local Laws Policy & Procedure Manual
- Campaspe Shire Council Compliance 11 Service Charter

Current Compliance Activities

- Annual audits of properties housing declared dogs
- Community education regarding dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs
- Ensure all residents where declared dogs are housed are kept clearly identified to the public
- Respond to complaints regarding dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs as a matter of urgency
- Ensure all declared dogs are accurately registered on the VDDR
- Review policies and delegations in relation to declaring a dog dangerous, menacing or a restricted breed
- Inspect industrial properties where guard dogs maybe kept

8.3 Our Plan

Over the next four years Council will continue to monitor the properties where declared dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs are kept to ensure compliance with Council's statutory obligations with the aim of maintain public safety. Council will continue to work with the community and relevant industry groups to promote responsible pet ownership. Refer to Appendix A.

9. DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES

Domestic Animal Business is defined by the Domestic Animals Act 1994 as:

- An animal shelter, Council pound or pet shop; or
- An enterprise which carries out the breeding of dogs (other than GRV greyhounds) to sell, if the enterprise has 3 or more fertile female dogs and the proprietor is not a recreational breeder; or
- An enterprise which carries out the breeding of cats to sell, if the enterprise has 3 or more fertile female cats and the proprietor is not a recreational breeder; or
- An enterprise which trains or boards dogs (other than GRV greyhounds) or cats for the purpose of profit; or
- An enterprise which rears or keeps dogs (other than GRV greyhounds) or cats –
 - For the purpose of profit or sale; or
 - For a fee or for exchange of services

9.1 Context and Current Situation

Council is responsible for overseeing registration and compliance of Domestic Animal Businesses under the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

All Domestic Animal Businesses must be registered and audited annually with Council and comply with the appropriate mandatory Victorian Code of Practice. The building premises must also comply with other Council requirements such as, building, health, planning, and Local Laws.

There are 9 registered Domestic Animal Businesses (DABs) within the Shire of Campaspe.

DAB Type	Number of DABs
Breeding and rearing	4
Pet shops	3
Dog training establishments	0
Animal shelters and pounds	1
Boarding establishments	3
Total	11

In Council's previous Domestic Animal Management Plan the key activities were to:

- Develop and run workshops for domestic animal business owners and operators to improve compliance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and regulations and promote responsible pet ownership
- Review Council website in relation to Domestic Animal Business to provide 'online' application forms and the latest information available from the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions – Animal Welfare Victoria
- Undertake annual inspection and registration for all businesses
- Ensure that all businesses comply with the Act through annual audits
- Inspect businesses as required or as complaints are received
- Seek compliance from businesses that are not currently registered

Refer to Appendix A.

Council aims to work in partnership with Domestic Animal Businesses to achieve Council's Domestic Animal Management goals and the requirements of all related legislation.

Fortunately, Council continues to have low non-compliance issues which allows the annual registration and audit programs to continue with low impact on regular animal management activities.

The Local Laws team continue to work with the Planning department team to ensure all new planning permit applications for animal related businesses are flagged with Local Laws for registration where required and assessed for the compliance with the relevant legislation.

9.2 Our Policies and Procedures

Campaspe Shire Council uses the legislation of the Domestic Animal Act 1994 and relevant State Government Codes of Practice to ensure that all Domestic Animal Businesses are compliant with legislation & Codes.

Current Policies and Procedures

- Campaspe Shire Council General Local Law No.9, 2022
- Local Laws – Animal Control – Policy & Procedure manual
- Local Law Policy & Procedure Manual
- Animal Control Work Service Plan
- Campaspe Animal Shelter – Animal Health Plan
- Campaspe Shire Council Compliance 11 Service Charter

9.3 Our Plan

Council aims to continue to work in partnership with Domestic Animal Businesses to achieve Council's Domestic Animal Management goals and the requirements of all related legislation.

Objective Ensure all domestic animal businesses comply with all Victorian legislative requirements, including any new requirements introduced by the Victorian Government. Refer to Appendix A.

10. OTHER MATTERS

10.1 Context and Current Situation

Campaspe Shire Council has the Campaspe Emergency Animal Welfare Plan and a Municipal Emergency Management Plan. Both these plans outline how Council can prevent, recover and respond to emergencies.

10.2 Our Policies and Procedures

Current Policies and Procedures

- Campaspe Emergency Animal Welfare Plan
- Municipal Emergency Management Plan

10.3 Our Plan

Both plans are reviewed every three years by Council's Emergency Management Coordinator in conjunction with the Local Laws team including Community Rangers, the Campaspe Animal Shelter Operations Manager and animal attendant team members, to ensure up to date information is on hand.

These plans will be reviewed twice within the 2021 - 2025 DAMP's lifetime.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Campaspe Emergency Animal Welfare Plan	2021 & 2024	Review & update as required.
Municipal Emergency Management Plan		

11. ANNUAL REVIEW OF PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORTING

Under section 68A (3) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, Council must review its Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan. Council must provide the Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action (DEECA) Secretary with a copy of the plan, including any amendments, and publish an evaluation of the plan's implementation in its annual report.

12. EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

As required by the Domestic Animals Act 1994, Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan will be reviewed annually by the Local Laws Co-ordinator and Animal Shelter Operations Manager and any amendments necessary will be made. The amended version will be reported to the Director Communities and the Director Emergency Management, Executive Leadership Team and Council. The approved amended version will then be forwarded to the Secretary of the Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action (DEECA) via Animal Welfare Victoria.

Objective To review and evaluate the plan in accordance with the requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, amend where appropriate and complete required reports.

Activity	Schedule	Evaluation
Progress tracker implemented each year of the Plan and updated monthly by Council staff	Annually Monthly	Progress tracker available for comment by 10 July each year Council staff update progress tracker by the 30 of each month
Conduct annual review of Domestic Management Plan (DAMP)	August each year	DAMP reviewed by end of August each year throughout the lifetime of the Plan
Submit reviewed DAMP with progress tracker and proposed amendments to Council for approval	August each year	Review completed and submitted to Council for approval by the end of August each year
Submit Council approved amendments and new copy of the DAMP to the Secretary of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	October each year	Copy of the DAMP and amendments provided to the Secretary of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions by 31 October each year
Publish an evaluation of the implementation of the DAMP in Council's annual report	Annually	Evaluation published in the Council's annual report

APPENDIX A

Activity	Ongoing	Quarterly	Annual	As Required	As Programmed	2022	2023	2024	Evaluations	Outcomes
Animal Registration education through the media			X						Review media release types available to determine most effective advertising	Demonstrate an increase of numbers of domestic animal registrations on an annual basis by 2%
Information given to residents for addressing barking dog issues	X								Review complaints made to ensure Barking Dog procedures were followed	Review undertaken of procedures and updated as appropriate
Information given to residents for addressing cat trespass issues	X								Provide educational materials to cat owners and complainants about cat enclosures and nuisance issues	
Recording and investigating all nuisance complaints				X					All nuisance complaints investigated and followed up with animal owners and recorded on Council's database	
Issuing notice to comply	X								Continue door knocking program to identify unregistered animals across the municipality and ensure identification and registration	
Provision of cat cages and information given to ensure appropriate and human trapping of cats	X								Program suspended at this time. To be reviewed.	
Information on responsible pet ownership available on Council's website	X								Communication plan implemented and actioned	
Distribution of responsible pet ownership brochures in adoption packs	X								All adoption packs contain responsible pet ownership brochures	

Activity	Ongoing	Quarterly	Annual	As Required	As Programmed	2022	2023	2024	Evaluations	Outcomes
Adoption and Micro-chipping days		X							Continue reduced rate microchipping services.	Increased adoption percentages
Discussions with dog owners when out on patrols about responsible pet ownership expectations	X								Rostering of Community Rangers to undertake town patrols daily	
Community Ranger – Home Safe Program	X								Increase number of animals returned to their owner without having to be impounded	
Identification and Registration - Doorknock Campaigns			X						Demonstrate increase of domestic animal registrations by 1% following annual door knocks	
Micro-chipping service at Campaspe Animal Shelter	X								Continue reduced rate microchipping services	
Distribute Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife education material throughout municipality	X								Less reports of wandering/nuisance cats within 12 months	
Education on identifying and reporting of dog attacks using social media	X								Compare the number of dog attack reports to previous year	
Promotion of the benefits of desexing, socialisation and training of pets using social media	X								Communication plan implemented and actioned	
Promotion of confinement of animals to owner's premises to prevent stray pets using social media	X								Promotes compliance to State and local government legislation	
Provide education material about cat enclosures and how to build your own	X								Provide educational materials to cat owners about cat enclosures and nuisance issues	

Activity	Ongoing	Quarterly	Annual	As Required	As Programmed	2022	2023	2024	Evaluations	Outcomes
Educate community of changes to State legislation	X								Communication plan implemented and actioned	
Produce information regarding micro-chipping, desexing, registration, and confinement requirements in multi-lingual formats						X			Develop and produce multi-lingual information sheets accessible to the public online and hard copy	Promote compliance to State and local government legislation
Explore options to offer free or reduced fee initial domestic animal registrations for cats and dogs under the age of 6 months						X			Communication report implemented and submitted to Executive Management Group for approval	
Explore options to offer free or reduced fee initial domestic animal registrations for cats and dogs adopted from an applicable rehoming organisation						X			Communication report implemented and submitted to Executive Management Group for approval	
Explore government funding for Council to provide discount desexing voucher options for low socio-economic groups within the community							X		Information obtained and proposal to apply for a grant submitted to Executive Management Group for approval	Grant application submitted for Round 3 pet desexing and equine rehabilitation
Develop engaging factsheets and web content regarding legislative obligations							X		Reduce infringements issued by 5%	Reduction in unregistered animals
Develop a 'Welcome Pack' for first time pet registrations								X	Develop and implement Welcome Pack	
Education and door knocking programs			X						Reduction in the number/percentages of animals that are euthanised, year on year	Percentage of animals euthanised decreased by 10% over the lifetime of the plan
Foster Care Program	X								Foster carers increased from zero to thirteen over the lifetime of the plan	Increase the number of foster carers on the in-home program over the lifetime of the plan

Activity	Ongoing	Quarterly	Annual	As Required	As Programmed	2022	2023	2024	Evaluations	Outcomes
Community Foster Care Networks (CFCNs)	X								Increase the number of Community Foster Care Networks working with Council over the lifetime of the plan	CFCNs increased from zero to twelve over the lifetime of the plan. CFCNs were not required to assist with adoptions for the last two years of the plan as Campaspe Animal Shelter successfully rehoused all houseable pets on their own
Promotion of responsible pet ownership through registration and identification	X								Pets returned to owners when possible by Community Rangers with a Notice to Comply if un-registered	Decrease the percentage of unregistered animals detained year on year
Council Capital Works Project for new cat facility design to meet code of practice and increase number of holding pens at Campaspe Animal Shelter					X				Completion of cat facility design by Council's project management team submitted to Executive Management Group for approval to move to phase two in 22/23 financial year	Approval for cat facility build in 22/23 budget and completion of build by project management team. Put on hold while external review of service is being completed
Consider introducing a cat curfew to reduce incidence of breeding to decrease the number of unwanted cat litters in the community							X		Review surrounding Council's local laws around cat curfew's and submit the considered new local law to Council	
Animal registrations mailed out via post and email, registration reminder notices			X						Number of animals re-registered after receiving the notice	Reduced number of unpaid registrations
Follow up letters for failure to re-register animals sent out to all owners			X						Completion of mail out by 10 May each year	Reduced number of unpaid registrations

Activity	Ongoing	Quarterly	Annual	As Required	As Programmed	2022	2023	2024	Evaluations	Outcomes
Follow up text messages for failure to re-register animals sent out to all owners			X						Completion of text messages out by 31 May each year	Reduced number of unpaid registrations
Door knocking to follow up for failure to re-register animals			X							Completion of site visits by 30 June each year
Provide reduced fees for desexed animals, working dogs, animals of the age of 10 years and pension concession card holders			X						Reduced fees advertised and provided to owners who qualify	
Ensure all seized and impounded animals are microchipped and registered to their owner prior to release	X								All animals reclaimed are microchipped and registered with their Council	Reduction in unregistered/microchipped animals
Ensure all pet shops, breeders, veterinary clinics and animal shelters are provided with information on registration and identification responsibilities	X								All Domestic Animal Business and Veterinary Clinics are provided with current registration and identification information	
Produce information regarding micro-chipping, desexing, registration, and confinement requirements in multi-lingual formats						X			Develop and produce multi-lingual information sheets accessible to the public online and hard copy	
Work with complainants to ensure that the appropriate steps including investigation, recording and communication of events are met				X					100% of notified nuisance complaints are investigated and closed out with return call to complainants	100% all notified nuisance complaints responded to and investigated
Continue to work with owners of identified nuisance animals to ensure that all compliance requirements are met				X					100% of notified nuisance complaints investigated 100% of complaints followed up with animal owners	100% of nuisance complaints investigated and followed up with animal owners

Activity	Ongoing	Quarterly	Annual	As Required	As Programmed	2022	2023	2024	Evaluations	Outcomes
Undertake routine patrols across the municipality	X								Rostering of Community Rangers to undertake town patrols on a daily basis Target: Patrols occurs on 95% of days	Community Ranger roster, including on-call staff rostered on every 24 hours
Maintain a register of complaints on Council's corporate information system	X								100% of complaints registered on Council's corporate information system	100% of complaints and hot spots are recorded
Maintain a register of cat traps and locations	X								Trapping program is suspended at present.	
Provide out of hours on call service for dog attacks	X								Respond to dog attack reports within 45 minutes 24 hours a day 7 days a week Target 95% within response time	95% reported dog attacks were responded to within 45 minutes
Targeted patrols	X								Undertake patrol following report of attack Target 100% of reports followed up with patrol	100% reported dog attacks were followed up with targeted patrols
Enhance our recording system that we are keeping data on the types of attacks that occur	X								Record keeping including the following additional information about the type of attack: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported dog on dog/cat Reported dog on people Reported dog on livestock	100% reported dog attack information compiled through Dog Attack Report, Notice to Comply, Briefs, body cameras and pictures and uploaded on to Council's data system

Activity	Ongoing	Quarterly	Annual	As Required	As Programmed	2022	2023	2024	Evaluations	Outcomes
Promote responsible pet ownership through registration and identification of dangerous, menacing and restricted breeds			X						100% of identified dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs are kept in accordance with the Act	Community Rangers completed annual inspections on registered properties
Develop an online reporting platform for dog attacks and rushes via Council's website						X			Online reporting system develop	Online reporting system develop and in use
Annual audits of properties where dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dogs are housed and properties where a magistrate has imposed an order to contain	X								Number of audits completed	Number of audits completed
Review education material about dog attacks and how to report a dog attack on Council's website						X			Review completed and material easily accessible for residents	
Improve public awareness of what a dog attack is and how to report using social media	X								Communication plan implemented and actioned	Communication plan implemented and actioned
Promotion of the benefits of desexing, socialisation and training of pets using social media	X								Communication plan implemented and actioned	Communication plan implemented and actioned
Develop information pack for owners of attacking dogs and owners of attacked animal or person							X		Information packs developed	Information packs developed and in use
All locations where dangerous dogs are kept are identified on the GIS system				X					Councils Spectrum Spatial system updated to record the properties where dangerous dogs are kept	100% of declared dangerous dog's properties recorded on Council's Exponaire system
All declared dangerous dogs are reported to Council via a formal Council report				X					All dogs that officers declare as dangerous are reported to Council in accordance with the requirements of the Act	100% of declarations reported to Council

Activity	Ongoing	Quarterly	Annual	As Required	As Programmed	2022	2023	2024	Evaluations	Outcomes
Community education regarding dangerous, menacing and restricted breeds		X							Public dissemination of information	Campaspe Animal Shelter Facebook page implemented community education posts every few months
All residences where dangerous dogs are kept are clearly identified to the public				X					100% of properties identifiable to the public	100% of properties audited and identifiable to the public
Educate the community about what a declared dog is	X								Brochures and website utilised	Community education
Prosecute all breaches of the Act or Regulations in relation to declared dogs	X								All breaches of the Act and Regulations are prosecuted	
Provide owners with restricted breed or declared dangerous or menacing dogs with up-to-date information regarding their responsibilities for housing and caring for the dog	X								Information printed and handed to owners of declared dangerous, menacing and restricted breeds when declared and at each audit	100% compliance
Restricted breed training for Community Rangers	X								Community Rangers attend all available training sessions on restricted breeds	
Ensure all Domestic Animal Businesses (DAB) within the shire are registered and comply with the legislation			X						100% of known businesses registered by 30 June each year	All Domestic Animal Businesses registered by 30 June each year
Carry out annual audits of businesses			X						100% of registered businesses audited annually	All registered Domestic Animal Businesses audited by 1 August each year
Planning compliance information is provided to those applicants who require it in order to establish their business				X					Meeting conducted with permit applicants	100% of applicants provided with relevant Codes of Practice

Activity	Ongoing	Quarterly	Annual	As Required	As Programmed	2022	2023	2024	Evaluations	Outcomes
Ensure that all pet shops, breeders, shelters and pounds have current information regarding identification and registration	X								100% of businesses handed up to date information handouts regarding identification and registration at the time of audit	100% compliance
Identify all businesses that should be registered Domestic Animal Businesses in the municipality	X								Monthly Pet exchange register audits for persons keeping more than three entire females (without applicable organisation membership) completed and breaches investigated	100% compliance
Monitor Council's registration database for owners and properties of more than three fertile females	X								Owners and properties with more than three fertile females identified and investigated	100% compliance
Inspect properties with excess animal permits to ensure they are not a breeding business	X								All properties with excess animal permits inspected	100% compliance
Investigate and act upon public information about non-compliance	X								Investigate all complaints regarding non-compliance	100% compliance
Media campaigns to raise awareness of Domestic Animal Businesses			X						Evaluate number of complaints received	Properties inspected

APPENDIX B – SPECIFIED AREAS FOR DOGS

Under the Domestic Animal Management Plan, NO dogs are permitted in any playground

Colbinabbin Area

Specified Area	Responsibilities & Signage that will apply
All Colbinabbin residential areas and Central Businesses District	Dogs to be on leads at all times
Community Hall Playground 36 Mitchell St	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times in Open Space
Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve	Dogs to be on leads at all times No Dogs allowed on oval surface

Echuca Area

Specified Area	Responsibilities & Signage that will apply
All Echuca residential areas and Central Businesses District	Dogs to be on leads at all times
Aquatic Wildlife Reserve Heygarth Street, Echuca	Dogs to be under control at all times
Scenic Trail - walking and cycling track Scenic Drive, Echuca	Dogs to be on leads at all times
Victoria Park 32 Crofton Street, Echuca	Dogs to be on leads at all times No Dogs allowed on oval surface.
South Oval 246 High Street, Echuca	Dogs to be on leads at all times No Dogs allowed on oval surface
Echuca East Open Space – Playground Echuca East Open Space – Open space Echuca East Open Space – Dog Park space	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be under control at all times Dogs to be under control at all times
Campaspe Esplanade – Shared user paths	Dogs to be on leads at all times
Garden Crescent Playground 15 Garden Crescent, Echuca	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times in Open Space
Riverboat Dock 51 Watson Street, Echuca	Dogs to be on lead at all times
Pevensey Place Playground 23-27 Murrumbidgee Drive, Echuca 14 Pevensey Place, Echuca	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times in Open Space

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Crossenvale Park Playground 10 Wilson Court, Echuca	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times in Open Space
Apex Park Playground 318-330 High Street, Echuca	No Dogs in the Playground
Campaspe River Reserve	Dogs on leads at all times
Alton Reserve Gardens Hare Street, Echuca	No Dogs Allowed
Civic Centre Gardens	Dog on leads at all times
Hopwood Gardens Playground Hopwood Place, Echuca	No Dogs in the Playground
Hopwood Gardens 1 Law Court Place, Echuca	Dogs to be on leads at all times in Open Space
Library Gardens	Dogs on leads at all times
Parkview Estate – Wilkinson Drive	Dogs to be under control at all times
South Playground 10 Towle Court, Echuca	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times in Open Space
Westwood Park Playground – Park Avenue	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be under control at all times in Open Space

Girgarre Area

Specified Area	Responsibilities & Signage that will apply
All Girgarre residential areas and Central Businesses District	Dogs to be on leads at all times
Girgarre Recreation Reserve and Playground	Dogs to be on leads at all times No Dogs allowed on oval surface. No Dogs in the playground
Progress Park and Playground Cnr Station Street, Morgan Road and Winter Road, Girgarre	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times in Open Space

Gunbower Area

Specified Area	Responsibilities & Signage that will apply
All Gunbower residential areas and Central Businesses District	Dogs to be on leads at all times
Galyan Woka- "Beautiful Country" - Gunbower Lions Park Gunbower Island Road, Gunbower	Dogs to be on leads at all times in Open Space
Galyan Woka- "Beautiful Country" - Gunbower Lions Park Playground* Gunbower Island Road, Gunbower	No Dogs Allowed

Kyabram Area

Specified Area	Responsibilities & Signage that will apply
All Kyabram residential areas and Central Businesses District	Dogs to be on leads at all times
Memorial Gardens and Walkway 94-96 Allan Street, Kyabram	No Dogs Allowed
Kyabram Recreation Reserve Unwin Street, Kyabram	Dogs to be on leads at all times No Dogs allowed on oval surface.
Northern Oval Reserve Tisdall Road, Kyabram	Dogs to be on leads at all times No Dogs allowed on oval surface.
Civic Centre 19 Lake Road, Kyabram	No Dogs Allowed
Edis Park and Playground 33 Oswald Street, Kyabram	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be under control at all times
Frederick Street Park and Playground 16 Frederick Street, Kyabram	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times in Open Space
Glass Court Park and Playground 3 Glass Court, Kyabram	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times in Open Space
Banyule Court Park and Playground 36 Banyule Court, Kyabram	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times
Prunus Court Park and Playground 3 Prunus Court, Kyabram	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times in Open Space

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Bond Street Park and Playground 41-47 Bond Street, Kyabram	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times in Open Space
Poplar Park and Playground 3 Poplar Street, Kyabram	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times in Open Space
WJ Woods Reserve 27-33 Lake Road, Kyabram	Dogs to be on leads at all times in Open Space
Jaycee Park and Playground 9-15 Lake Road	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times in Open Space

Lockington Area

Specified Area	Responsibilities & Signage that will apply
All Lockington residential areas and Central Businesses District	Dogs to be on leads at all times
Lions Park and Playground Lockington Road, Lockington	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times in Park Open Space
Clare Avenue Playground Lockington, Lockington	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times in Open Space
Lockington Recreation Reserve and Playground	Dogs to be on leads at all times No Dogs allowed on oval surface. No Dogs in the playground

Rochester Area

Specified Area	Responsibilities & Signage that will apply
All Rochester residential areas and Central Businesses District	Dogs to be on leads at all times
Rochester Skate Park 36 Campaspe Street	Dogs to be on leads at all times
Lions Park and Playground Cnr Echuca Road & Northern Hwy	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times
Rotunda Park Moore Street, Rochester	Dogs to be on leads at all times

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Rotary “ Wirima” Park and Playground 78 Moore Street	No Dogs in the Playground No Dogs Allowed
Walking Track Campaspe Esplanade	Dogs to be under control at all times
Campaspe Park Campaspe Street, Rochester	Dogs to be under control at all times
Apex Park and Playground Queen, William & Park Streets	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times
Rankin Street Park and Playground 10a Rankin Street	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times
Rochester Racecourse Recreation Reserve	Dogs to be under control at all times

Rushworth Area

Specified Area	Responsibilities & Signage that will apply
All Rushworth residential areas and Central Businesses District	Dogs to be on leads at all times
Main Street & High Street	Dogs to be on leads at all times
Geyles Reserve Playground 3 Esmonde Street	No dogs allowed in Playground Dogs to be under control at all times
Lions Park Frontage* 29 Station Street	Dogs to be under control at all times
Lions Park Playground 29 Station Street	No Dogs Allowed

Stanhope Area

Specified Area	Responsibilities & Signage that will apply
All Stanhope residential areas and Central Businesses District	Dogs to be on leads at all times
Apex Park Brudenell Street, Stanhope	No Dogs Allowed
McEwen Place Intersection of Godley Place, Birdwood Avenue & Monash Street, Stanhope	No Dogs Allowed
Lions Park	No Dogs in the Play ground Dogs to be under control at all times

Tongala Area

Specified Area	Responsibilities & Signage that will apply
All Tongala residential areas and Central Businesses District	Dogs to be on leads at all times
Centennial Park Gooda Street	Dogs to be under control at all times
Tongala Recreation Reserve Doug Nicholls Drive	Dogs to be on leads at all times No dogs on oval surface
RK Brose Reserve 68 Finlay Road	Dogs to be under control at all times No dogs on oval surface
Lions Park and Playground Cnr Henderson Road & Doug Nichols Drive	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times
Potts Village Green Playground 23 Mangan Street	No Dogs in the Playground Dogs to be on leads at all times